

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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FRANCO BELIEVED DUE TO WIN SPANISH WAR

Commander Stephen King-Hall, London news commentator whose weekly reports have a wide circulation throughout the British Empire reports that well-informed London circles expect Franco to win the Spanish civil war, though they believe victory will not be achieved before the spring of 1938. It is recognized however that the new Loyalist army now being formed may upset all predictions.

An interesting sidelight on what is happening in Spain is given by an anonymous Spaniard of moderate views who recently visited London. This Spaniard leader says that whichever side wins the war the result will be disastrous, but that moderate opinion in Spain is moving toward the conviction that a Franco victory is preferable because Great Britain and France can be depended upon to step in to prevent Italian domination of the Spanish peninsula, while in event of a Loyalist victory there would be no power to restrain the ambitions of these two nations. The same spokesman is authority for the statement that there are about 7000 Germans in Franco's armies, chiefly technicians. He estimates the number of Italians at nearer 70,000 than the 40,000 admitted by Mussolini, and adds that while their air forces are highly respected, the Spanish hold the Italian infantry in contempt.

From the same source comes the report that Franco has been compelled by the force of circumstances to move to the left and in consequence is receiving support of many bourgeois republicans who formerly sup-

ported the Loyalty government. A Basque administrator is reported to estimate that the war has already cost over a million Spanish lives in one way or another and that if an armistice should be called it would be hard to get fighting started again.

It is worth noting that the Italian adverse trade balance since intervention in the Spanish conflict began has continued to grow more desperate. In September 1936 it was between 8 and 9 million pounds sterling. In September 1937 it was 25 million pounds.

IMPORTANT WORLD FRIENDSHIP PROJECT

A vast radio education project designed to promote the Good Neighbor Policy of the United States was inaugurated on November 1 by the Department of the Interior under the direction of Secretary Harold Ickes.

Under the title "Brave New World" a series of radio broadcasts covering the history of Latin America developed around the lives of its great leaders, statesmen, educators, poets, and artists will be presented in 26 episodes, ending April 25, 1938.

Dr. Samuel Guy Inman, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America, and advisor to the United States Delegation at the Buenos Aires Conference will serve as technical advisor to the project.

The broadcasts are presented over the Columbia system each Monday night from 10:30-11 Eastern Standard Time, 9:30-10 CST, 8:30-9 MT, and 7:30-8 Pacific Time.



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AP of L ENDORSES COOPERATIVES

Asserting that 75% of recent wage increases have been cancelled by increased living costs and that the average living standard of employed workers in the United States is only above that of the worst month of depression, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the Denver convention endorsed in principle the consumers' cooperatives as a way out.

The Executive Council charged that the wage costs in manufacturing rose only 1.8% between January 1, 1935 and January 1, 1937, while prices increased 4%. The Council bluntly charged the situation to profiteering by industries where powerful combinations make price control possible.

The report calls attention to the notable success of the consumers' cooperative movement in Europe and points out that in these countries the union leaders have been leading in the cooperative movement.

The past history of the movement in the United States is briefly reviewed, both as to its successes and failures, and the reasons for failures pointed out. Endorsing the middle principles, the Council stresses the necessity for trades union recognition on the part of cooperatives and warns that some, especially among farmer groups, have 'as yet failed to grasp the basic function of trade union organization in cooperative enterprises'. Unions are urged not to undertake cooperative enterprises without careful study of the principles of sound business management. A number of successful cooperatives in which trades unions have had a leading part are cited in the report. Copies of the report can be had from the Cooperative League, 167 W. 12th St., New York City for 2 cents each, \$1.00 per hundred.

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The seriousness of the Italian economic situation is indicated by the adverse trade balance of 25 billion lire, approximately \$125,000,000 in September 1, 1937. Most significant is the fact that the figures have risen from between 8 and 9 billion lire or nearly 300 per cent since September 1936.

LUDLOW TO FIGHT FOR WAR PLEBISCITE BILL

Congressman Louis Ludlow of Indiana has again introduced in Congress his House Joint Resolution #199 to amend the constitution of the United States to require a prior favorable vote in a nationwide referendum before Congress shall be empowered to declare war, except in event of invasion of the United States or its territorial possessions and attack upon its citizens residing therein. The proposed amendment also empowers the President, immediately upon the declaration of war to take over for the use of the government all public and private war properties and to compensate private owners at a rate not to exceed four per cent of the value on which taxes were assessed in the year preceding the war. The Bill was buried in the House Military Affairs Committee during the last session, but a discharge petition, necessary to take legislation out of the hands of a committee and bring it to vote on the floor of the House, is rapidly gaining signatures. Senator Bennett Clark of Missouri has announced that he will sponsor the measure in the Senate. Several religious bodies, 101 members of Congress, 65 university presidents and a number of Catholic bishops, Jewish rabbis, Protestant ministers and more than a million workers have endorsed the bill.

NEELY-PETTINGILL BILL TO BE PUSHED

The Motion Picture Research Council, 1201-16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C., announces that the Neely-Pettingill Bill (S.153-H.R.1669) to prohibit 'block-booking' and blind selling of motion picture films will be vigorously pushed in the Special Session of Congress. Block-booking—a trade practice in which the exhibitor is compelled to contract for a block of films 'sight unseen' and to accept undesirable lowgrade pictures in order to get features, is opposed by many exhibitors, study groups, educators and civic leaders. Letters supporting the Bill should be addressed to the Council.



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TING BOTH SIDES OF THE LABOR PROBLEM

Readers wishing to get a fair view of both sides of the present labor controversy are referred to the following articles:

Attiques Six Months After the Strikes, by Phil S. Hanna for Industry and Ed-
d Levinson for Labor, Survey Graphic, November, 1937. Mr. Hanna is editor
the Chicago Journal of Commerce and Mr. Levinson is industrial reporter for
New York Post. Mr. Hanna insists that judged by things as they are, and
as idealists would have them, "there was no omission or shortcoming on the
t of employers in steel and motors that even faintly warranted" the sit-
n strikes or the property damage that accompanied them. He blames "strong arm
hods", and political assistance for whatever success was attained. He as-
ts that the CIO perpetrates upon the worker the same sort of "economic hoax
t Dr. Townsend perpetrated on the aged". Mr. Levinson, from his experience
the ground during the strikes, cites the "union smashing" efforts of such
cerns as Republic and Bethlehem Steel as responsible for the labor upheav-
Using names, dates and places, he gives incident after incident showing
employers used propaganda, local public officials such as mayors, chiefs
police, sheriffs, and the National Guard, to break up picket lines, beat
strikers and intimidate their families. This combination of propaganda,
servient public officials, anti-union newspapers and National Guard activ-
es has temporarily defeated the will of workers in Little Steel to organ-
under leaders of their own choosing, but Mr. Levinson is of the opinion
t the current mood of American Labor "is not one which will accept vio-
ce and repression as the final arbiter of its modest demands for recogni-
n and written agreements through collective bargaining".

Labor Get Together?, by Herbert Harris, Commonsense, November, 1937. Mr.
ris points out that the controversy between the AF of L and the CIO is not
of whether or not mass production industries shall be organized on the
ustrial basis -- Mr. Lewis has already accomplished that to the tune of 3,
0,000 members enrolled in 32 unions. The rank and file of both sides want
ce, but problems of jurisdiction, both within each group and between the
major federations, make peace difficult, if not impossible. Jurisdiction-
quarrels between unions in the AF of L are notorious - "the 20-year battle
ween the Teamsters and the Brewery Workers for control of truck drivers
ll continues" - and the unions within the CIO are not without similar dif-
ulties (Amalgamated Clothing Workers and International Ladies Garment Work-
s). More far-reaching than jurisdictional disputes, however, is the differ-
ne in the two groups in approach to political action. The AF of L follows
e 40-year example of Gompers, "reward your friends, punish your enemies" by
erating within the two major political parties, while the CIO seems to be
iving toward a new Labor party. The American Labor Party was a strong fac-
r in the triumphant re-election of Mayor LaGuardia of New York, and there
e indications that Mr. Lewis and his associates are driving toward a nation-
le effort to put friends of their cause in positions of influence in city
l state governments, in Congress, and even in the White House. Here Mr.
rris thinks, is a conflict of policy more serious than either craft versus
ustrial organization, jurisdiction, or personal leadership.

nted: Leaders for Labor - Frederick Bryce, Survey Graphic, November, 1937.
prominent lawyer and corporation director writes sympathetically, under an
sumed name, about labor's need for adequate leadership from its own ranks.

OPERATIVE BOOK CLUB. One of the Newest ventures in consumers' cooperation
the Cooperative Book Club, 5 East 57th Street, New York. On its advisory
mittee such well-known names appear as that of Stuart Chase, Dr. John Dewey,
Reinhold Niebuhr, John T. Flynn, Maury Maverick and Governor Elmer Benson.
club will supply books to members, returning profits in the form of patron-
dividends. Membership fee \$2.00.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD ACTIVITIES

The National Labor Relations Board began its work in the autumn of 1935. By the end of August 1937 it had handled 7,601 disputes involving 2,249,771 workers and had closed 4,566 cases, leaving 3,055 cases pending.

Of the 4,566 cases closed, 2,679, involving 496,233 employees, were ended by agreement.... Strikes were involved in 921 cases before the Board, 685 of which were settled and 132,508 workers reinstated. 392 threatened strikes, involving 95,534 workers were averted through Board action and 5,102 workers were reinstated after discriminatory discharge. 670 cases, involving 83,024 workers were dismissed and 1,023, involving 174,857 workers, were withdrawn before formal action was taken. 194 cases, involving 55,576 workers, were closed in other ways - compliance with the Board's findings, certification elections, transfers to other agencies for settlement, etc.

Of all complaints received, 2,496 (30%) alleged discrimination against workers because of union activity. In 1,816 cases the principal complaint was refusal of the employer to bargain collectively in good faith with representatives chosen by employees. To September 1, 1937, the Board had received 42 petitions, involving 888,552 workers, asking for either certification of representatives or for holding of elections to select representatives for collective bargaining.

The figures indicate a large volume of constructive work being done by the agency and remarkable success in bringing about constructive adjustments. That the Board is impartial on the issue of craft versus industrial unions is indicated by the fact that it has been under attack by both the AFL and the AF of L. (Information Service)

MAKE OUR CURTSEY

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER makes its bow in response to a demand on the part of pastors, educational, missionary and youth leaders for some medium by which they can be kept informed of significant happenings in the social welfare field.

Through the generous cooperation of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational and Christian Churches we are able to offer the NEWSLETTER at the Research numbers of SOCIAL ACTION for the modest price of \$1.00 per year. A change of policy makes the first-of-the-month issue of Social Action Newsletter for the Congregational and Christian churches, while the mid-monthly remains a Research number. By supplying our own NEWSLETTER and combining it with the Research numbers of SOCIAL ACTION we are enabled to offer our disciples a similar service. The NEWSLETTER will bring to your desk each month a survey of significant happenings in the field of social action and the Research numbers will bring to you specially prepared reports on specific social problems. Recent numbers, for instance, have dealt with the automobile strike, the steel strike, housing, rural America, the liquor problem, the etc.

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